
Third perfin discovered on Eritrea

Robert J. Schwerdt #505L

The African section of the *World Perfins Catalog* illustrates two patterns from Italian Eritrea. I have recently acquired a third type, the pattern B.G. In the 1987 census report one collector had a count of two. Nothing to my knowledge has been reported since.

Noticeable differences can be observed when comparing genuine overprints with those on the perfinned stamps. A magnifying glass makes the differences even more apparent.

During the last few years a number of fake perfins have been reported on many stamps from various countries. The Italian perfins on my stamps appear genuine; however, the Eritrea overprints are undoubtedly faked. The numbers in the *World Perfins Catalog* should probably be changed to F1 and F2 and now F0.5, indicating their fraudulent status.

Anyone owning an overprinted Italian Eritrea perfin should make a careful comparison of the overprints and report the results to the foreign catalog editor.

Editor's Note: Schwerdt sent along copies of the perfins in question but they do not reproduce clearly. However, the overprint is an obvious fake when compared to a genuine overprint. Collectors are urged to carefully examine any perfin with an overprint that changes its country of origin. The new Italian catalog identifies the B.G. pattern as that of Banca Generale, a fairly common perfin on Italian stamps. The Italian Eritrea overprint, of course, makes it a much scarcer item.